THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) As various Ministries are involved in this activity information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Utilisation of European Space Agency Satellite

3801. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had a proposal to utilise European Space Agency (ERS) Satellite for development of data on ocean and coastal parameters:

(b) if so, whether the strategies pertaining to such programme have been finalised; and

(c) if so, the time by which such ERS satellite is proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An agreement has been signed between the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad, of the Department of Space (DOS) and the European Space Agency (ESA) for receiving, processing and distributing data from the Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) instrument on the European Remote Sensing Satellite (ERS-1) on an experimental basis for ocean, coastal and also land applications. The National Remote Sensing Agency has already geared up its facilities towards this. The Department of Space has taken up a programme on the ocean applications jointly with the Department of Ocean Development (DOD) for exploiting the data from ERS-1 along with that from the Indian Remote Sensing Satellites.

(c) The plans are to utilise ERS-1 data by the last quarter of 1991, as soon as they are available and establish their potential for application to the development of land, water and ocean resources.

[*Translation*]

Approval to Mahi Irrigation Project of Bihar

3802. SHRI RAM SARAN YADAV: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has approved the Mahi Irrigation Project of Bihar: and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Allocation of Essential Consumer Items to Rajasthan at Cheaper Rates

3804. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of essential consumer items allocated at cheaper rates to Rajasthan during the last three years, year-wise:

(b) the quota lifted by the State Government, year-wise; and

(c) whether these items were allocated in time; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Central Government incurs a substantial amount as subsidy in supplying foodgrains